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Texas Committeeman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Sample Copy

April 1, 1941

College Station, Texas

Undersecretary visits -



UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Paul Appleby stopped by the State Office one day this month for a short session with the State Committee which was in special session. Left to right, Undersecretary of Agriculture Appleby, George Slaughter, State Chairman, and Fred Rennels, Assistant State Administrative Officer.

Sitting in a number of 119 hearings, the Undersecretary studied the problem faced by the State Committee in handling the appeals, stated in an interview for the press: "AAA policies, which make for higher farm income than otherwise would be available, and regulations which place a limitation on the displacement of tenants by landlords are putting a damper on the trend toward displacement, but the trend will continue despite any artificial attempts to slow it down."

He cited the increase in mechanization of farming operations, sickness, lack of money, and other reasons for the trend.

From the State Committee -

Dear Committeemen:

Today, more than ever before, agriculture must attain unity--both within its own ranks and within the ranks of other great segments of the American population, industry and labor. Agriculture faces a situation as appalling, a crisis as great, as any it ever has faced. In a world at war, the American farmer has seen his export markets vanish, his surpluses pile up, his income, already too low, threatened still further.

And yet, the American farmer has a great stake in the national defense program, and the national defense program has a great stake in the American farmer.

For his part, the farmer has hopes of regaining some of his lost markets after the war, of increasing the domestic consumption of his products, of improving his income. For his own well-being and the well-being of his family, the farmer must obtain these things.

From the standpoint of national defense, the farmer is doing his share and more. Stored in the Ever-Normal Granary are millions of bushels of wheat and corn, millions of bales of cotton, ample supplies of food and fibre for the nation. Stored in the soil is a vast amount of fertility to produce adequately for the nation. In every farm community of the nation the farmers are working cooperatively with the National Farm Program to produce what is needed for the nation. In the AAA committees, both community and county, the farmers have the leadership with which to meet the crises facing them. They have the machinery with which to meet any demands made upon them. They are ready to adjust their production to fill the needs of the nation.

Agriculture's battle has been a long one. Farmers have fought for the gains they have made in recent years, and they must continue to fight to retain those gains. We still are short of our goal--parity income for agriculture--but we are on the way. The present program is not perfect, but within its framework are all the essentials necessary to achieve parity.

This program belongs to you and to all other farmers in Texas and the rest of the United States. We welcome your suggestions for its improvement and will do what we, as the State committee, can to follow your suggestions.

Very truly yours,

George Slaughter, Chairman Texas AAA Committee

From the State Committee-

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The Final Link in Wheat

UNLESS SOMETHING drastic happens to a couple of hundred million bushels of wheat between now and May 15, wheat growers, for the first time since the AAA began, will go to the polls about May 31 to decide whether they want to weld the final link in the AAA's effort to maintain a balance between supply and demand.

Other links in the chain already are in force--acreage allotments, conservation measures, loans, and parity payments. It's up to the wheat growers to decide whether they want to attach the final link.

Marketing quotas are nothing new to the farm program as a whole, as cotton and tobacco growers have testified so well. Last year tobacco growers voted in favor of three-year quotas while cotton farmers overwhelmingly approved quotas on this year's crop. If a national marketing quota is proclaimed, the referendum which follows will be the first time wheat producers will have availed themselves of the voting privilege in connection with the program.

Big Surplus

As has been pointed out, no quota can be proclaimed unless the May 15 crop estimate indicates that the supply of wheat on July 1 will exceed by at least 35 per cent the requirements for domestic consumption and exports. At the moment, there seems little doubt but that the wheat picture on May 15 will require that quotas be proclaimed. Current estimates indicate the supply will be around one billion 200 million bushels-approximately 200 million above the marketing quota level.

Since quotas for wheat are a new feature, we must take into consideration that there probably will be some delay before we get a complete, official explanation of how they will operate. It probably will be necessary to redraft what regulations already are in existence so as to take advantage of

what has been learned by past experience with other commodities. We do have, however, a general idea as to how they will operate and can base our discussions on that information.

Most important of all, we know a great deal about the wheat situation. We know what will happen to the wheat grower if surpluses mount too high.

What's more, we all have a fairly good notion as to what would happen to the price of wheat without a loan. We saw what happened back in those disastrous years before we had a national farm program. Remember that if quotas are proclaimed and voted down, no loan can be made on the crop this year. If quotas are proclaimed and approved, a loan can be made—and will be made if the price requires it.

From now until something definite is decided on quotas, it will be necessary for committeemen and other agricultural workers to present the picture as fully as possible, to all wheat producers—in meetings, in the press, over the radio, in private discussions. That is the job of the committeemen—both county and community—just as much as it is their job to see that the program runs properly in their territory.

This test of the national farm program is important to every farmer in the United States. It is more than a question of whether or not the wheat grower shall operate under quotas. This is the first chance the wheat growers ever have had to express their opinion of the program at the polls. That expression of opinion will be watched with interest by proponents and opponents of the program.

So now the task of seeing that everyone understands the question is up to the committeemen. The job is theirs to do and, judging from past experience, they'll do it.

-AAA-

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-AAA-

Big Job -

AAA COMMITTEEMEN and county administrative officers had a big job handed to them this year in the new supplementary cotton program. Joined with them in handling the new addition are the Surplus Marketing Administration and the Extension Service, but the biggest task—that of administering the program—belongs to AAA workers in the counties.

From all reports—and we've received only a few—the job is being handled with efficiency and dispatch with committeemen, administrative officers, and county extension agents working closely together. Throughout the state county workers generally have adopted the idea of killing two birds with one stone by getting the supplementary program intention sheets signed at the same time the farm plan sheets are signed. Each phase of the program probably will benefit in a bigger signup because of the tie—in.

In practically all cotton counties, series of meetings were held to explain the supplementary program and, at the same time, to discuss other phases of the farm program. In some of those counties fortunate enough to have radio stations at their disposal, the administrative officers, county committeemen and county agents have gone on the air to explain the program. Newspapers, of course, were used in all counties to get the word out.

Illustrated letters to producers and their families from county home demonstration agents, county agricultural agents, and county AAA offices were used in most counties. Additional letters of this type probably will be sent the counties this month.

After the job of informing the producers about the program is finished, it will be up to the AAA to handle the rest of the work—measuring acreage, issuing cotton stamps, checking compliance with the food practice.

-AAA-

In Explanation -

WITH THIS SAMPLE copy, we are sounding you out as to the value of issuing a regular publication such as THE TEXAS COMMITTEEMAN. We feel that the publication might be of some use to committeemen and other AAA workers in understanding and aiding others to understand the National Farm Program.

At this time the state office does not possess the equipment with which to publish THE TEXAS COMMITTEE-MAN in the form we wish to print it. This sample copy is being run off on demonstration equipment to determine whether regular publication would be worthwhile.

In the meantime, we will appreciate receiving from the field any suggestions, criticisms, ideas, or what have you. We will need short stories of outstanding work done in connection with the program. We will need stories of conservation accomplishments by individuals and by counties. We will need experience stories on farmers in the various counties.

This is intended to be a medium of exchange of information among committeemen and other field workers. This will be your publication and we will want information and materials from you to use in it.

But before anyone gets mad because he sends in materials which are not used, we want to warn you that it probably will be impossible to publish everything we receive. Limited space will require that we use only such information as is considered of the most value to others in the state.

Also, insofar as possible, we will not use technical materials, administrative rulings on the program, and such other information as we do not consider as belonging in the publication. THE TEXAS COMMITTEEMAN is intended to be an educational publication and will be used toward that end.

Big Job -

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Congratulations to-

THOSE COUNTIES making good use of illustrated news letters to producers, Steadily increasing use of illustra tions to attract the attention of the readers bears witness to the value of the idea. T. W. Bishop is preparing a new cartoon booklet which will be sent to counties as soon as possible. The state office appreciates receiving samples of work done in the counties and extends a blanket thanks and congratulations. It is impossible to write congratulations to each county committee and secretary doing the good work, but each example received is studied and showed around.

GARLON A. HARPER, Parmer County administrative officer, for the series of articles he is running in the Farwell State-Line Tribune. Each week he writes a story on some farmer who is doing a good job in cooperation with the program. Emphasis in the stories is on conservation work.

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BOB NELSON, fieldman for District 7, for making the best use of motion pictures we've yet discovered. Working with Extension Service District Agent W. I. Glass, Nelson routed a motion picture projector and some films into every county in the district. The county agents and AAA officials in the counties showed the pictures in the various communities. In this way, producers all over the district have had a chance to see the picutres. Nelson started scheduling the shows in November and was still going strong at last report.

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DALLAS COUNTY ACA for the series of radio programs over a Dallas station explaining the AAA and why we have a program. County committeemen V. T. Fisher, R. J. Cox, and E. V. Poynter, Administrative Officer W. W. Farmer, and County Agent A. B. Jolley all worked together on the programs.

-AAA-

He Suggest -

WINDOW EXHIBITS in those counties with good display space or in those counties which can borrow space from some downtown businessman. From time to time, we'll pass on ideas for window displays which can be worked up in the counties. These displays can prove very valuable in interesting the man in the street, the man who knows little about the program, in what the AAA means.

Three effective window display cards may be created from the "parity panels" on the next page. Obtain three, two, or one of those advertising easel display boards, which usually can be borrowed from grocers or druggists. Have a county office clerk or signwriter letter the copy on a fresh piece of poster board (get it at printing office) omitting the illustration. Affix board to easel. Then in place for illustration, put an empty corn flakes package, a man's new or neatly laundered shirt, (change the figure to fit the price), or a real or dummy loaf of bread. Such a display has a threedimensional effect. The window may be dressed up with corn stalks, wheat heads, lint cotton, or other appropriate material. Somewhere in the display get in the fact: "Parity is an AAA Goal."

The state office will appreciate reports, pictures if possible, of any displays prepared.

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SENDING PICTURES of conservation work to the state office. All pictures, if they are to be used, must be accompanied by the negatives so that they can be printed in a size convenient for reproduction in newspapers or THE TEXAS COMMITTEEMAN. As with all other materials, we will not be able to use everything we receive but we do need pictures, both for our files and for immediate use.

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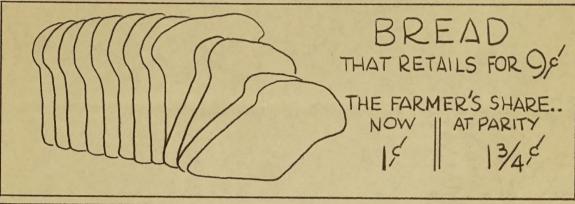
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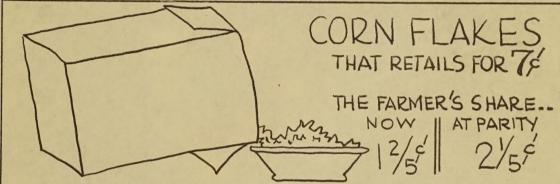
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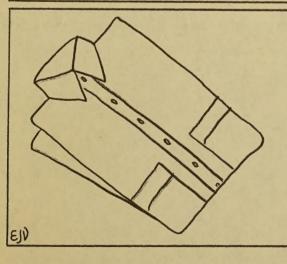
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COTTON SHIRT
THAT RETAILS FOR \$ 100

THE FARMER'S SHARE...

NOW | AT PARITY

70 | 120







COTTON SHIRT

THE FARMER'S SHARE...

